



U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

General Counsel

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 29, 2006

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Suite 700
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

217 392

Re: Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases
Ex Parte No. 646 (Sub-No. 1)

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced docket, 71 Fed. Reg. 43703 (August 2, 2006), the United States Department of Transportation hereby gives notice of its intent to participate in this proceeding. Please include the undersigned as a Party of Record.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL SAMUEL SMITH
Senior Trial Attorney

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